

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-61 (Canceled).

Claim 62 (Previously Presented): A tandem image forming device comprising: a plurality of image forming sections arranged side by side and each comprising a developing device and a cleaning device arranged around an image carrier; and one of nearby ones of said plurality of image forming sections having said cleaning device thereof positioned above said developing device of other image forming sections.

Claim 63 (Previously Presented): A method of arranging a plurality of image forming sections, each of which comprises a developing device and a cleaning device arranged around an image carrier, comprising:

arranging the plurality of image forming sections side by side in a tandem image forming device; and

positioning the cleaning device above the developing device of other image forming sections in one of nearby ones of said plurality of image forming sections.

Claim 64 (New): An image forming apparatus comprising:
an intermediate image transfer body implemented as an inclined belt;
process cartridges arranged along the intermediate image transfer body;

each of said process cartridges having a developing device and a cleaning device; and
said developing device arranged above said cleaning device.

Claim 65 (New): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 64, further comprising:
a fixing device arranged in a space of the image forming apparatus caused by the
inclination of the belt.

Claim 66 (New): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 65, wherein said fixing device
comprises an endless belt and is configured to fix a toner image formed on a recording
medium.

Claim 67 (New): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 64, wherein said inclined belt
comprises an elastic layer and a smooth coating layer covering a surface of said elastic layer.

Claim 68 (New): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 67, wherein said elastic layer is
not flexible in a circumferential direction of said intermediate image transfer body, but is
elastic at at least a surface thereof and subjected to a pressure by secondary transfer.

Claim 69 (New) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 64, wherein said developing
device comprises an agitating section and a developing section,
said agitating section being positioned at a lower level than the developing section
with said cleaning device overlying said agitating section.

Claim 70 (New): The apparatus as claimed in Clam 64, wherein said cleaning device
comprises a cleaning blade and a fur brush.

Claim 71 (New): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 70, wherein said cleaning device further comprises an electric field roller configured to apply a bias to said fur brush.

Claim 72 (New): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 64, further comprising:
a plurality of image forming sections distributed above and below said intermediate image transfer body.

Claim 73 (New): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 72, wherein said image forming sections each further comprises a primary image transfer device, a charger, and a drum.

Claim 74 (New): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 64, further comprising:
a controller configured to output an emergency stop command when an error occurs.

Claim 75 (New): The apparatus as claimed in claim 64, further comprising:
a sensor located on a sheet conveyance path and configured to sense a leading edge of a recording medium; and
a registration roller pair preceding an image transfer position configured to correct a skew of the recording medium.

Claim 76 (New): The apparatus as claimed in Clam 64, further comprising:
a sensor located on a sheet conveyance path and configured to sense a leading edge of a recording medium fed by a feeding operation, which occurs at a preselected interval; and
a registration roller pair preceding an image transfer position and configured to correct a skew of the recording medium.

Claim 77 (New): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 64, further comprising:
a turning device configured to turn a recording medium in order to form a toner
image on both sides of said recording medium.

Claim 78 (New): A process cartridge removably mounted on an image forming
apparatus, comprising:

a developing device;
a cleaning device; and
said developing device being disposed above said cleaning device when said process
cartridge is mounted on the image forming apparatus.

Claim 79 (New) The cartridge as claimed in Claim 78, wherein said developing
device comprises an agitating section and a developing section,
said agitating section being positioned at a lower level than the developing section
with said cleaning device overlying said agitating section.

Claim 80 (New): The cartridge as claimed in Clam 78, wherein said cleaning device
comprises a cleaning blade and a fur brush.

Claim 81 (New): The cartridge as claimed in Claim 80, wherein said cleaning device
further comprises an electric field roller configured to apply a bias to said fur brush.